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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Association culturelle d'aide à la promotion éducative et sociale (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The Association culturelle d'aide à la promotion éducative et sociale (ACAPES) was renamed the Association culturelle d'autopromotion éducative et sociale in May 2006, in accordance with a restructuring based on the fundamental principles of autonomy, responsibility, innovation and the participation of grass-roots stakeholders. ACAPES is a "social movement" non-governmental organization (NGO), whose mission is to contribute to sustainable human development by promoting citizenship education (global and holistic) and the rise of new forms of solidarity.

Its strategic aims are, among other things: (a) to ensure communities' right to life through global education, risk prevention and harm reduction in health, sanitation and the environment; (b) to encourage the internalization of the principles of democratization, promotion of rights and the non-violent prevention of conflicts; and (c) to promote trade, cooperation and integration between communities and nations and self-reinforcement with respect for sociocultural differences and realities. Its main activities are: (a) global education for social change; (b) alternative training for children and youth; (c) control of HIV/AIDS and malaria; (d) training of grass-roots communities in nutrition and reproductive health, and environmental education for youth and women: protection and restoration of the environment; (e) interregional trade for the promotion of economic exchange and solidarity; (f) promotion and protection of the rights of children, women and the family and of cultural differences; encouragement of positive cultural values (tolerance, good governance, ethical behaviour and conflict management); (g) technological and communications training; and (h) development of partnerships with relevant stakeholders, associations, organizations and specialized agencies.

In May 2006, the General Assembly confirmed the regional dimension of the Association by approving joint activities with non-governmental organizations in West and Central Africa; in 2007 ACAPES joined the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).

Participation in United Nations meetings

Forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, February-March 2005; fiftieth session, February-March 2006; fifty-first session, February-March 2007; fifty-second session, February-March 2008.

Participation in other United Nations conferences and meetings

Fifty-eighth Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO) Conference, New York, September 2005; fifty-ninth annual DPI/NGO Conference, New York, September 2006; sixtieth annual DPI/NGO Conference, New York, September 2007; sixty-first annual DPI/NGO Conference, Paris, September 2008; World Forum on Water, Mexico City, March 2006 (e.g., rainwater recovery); Civil Society Forum prior to the Economic and Social Council high-level session, Geneva, June-July 2006; Second Pan-African Forum on Children, midterm review, Cairo, October-November 2007; "Critical moment in interreligious dialogue" conference, Geneva, June 2005; Social Dialogue

Strategy, Cairo, June 2005; United Nations meeting on bridging the digital divide, Tunis, November 2005; follow-up to the UNESCO meeting and preparation for the Geneva meeting, Paris, October-November 2006; preparation for the meeting of the Civil Society Advisory Committee, Paris, July-August 2007; meeting on the positive impact of ICTs on the environment and climate change, New York, November-December 2007; regional consultative meeting, African Union, Ota, Nigeria; participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Geneva, January-February 2008.

In preparation for each of these meetings, ACAPES held seminars and workshops on various topics, the conclusions of which call for equity, equality of opportunity, affirmative action, combating violence against women, and universal access to education.

ACAPES representatives called for a new information and communications order, education in human values and sustainable development.

II. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

In 2008, in cooperation with UNICEF/Dakar, ACAPES launched capacity-building workshops in schools/neighbourhoods/villages for mediator/facilitators, to teach them new forms of solidarity.

As part of the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, ACAPES has carried out the following activities:

Goal 1 — Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: (a) participation in various activities to fight hunger, organized by the World Food Programme; and (b) participation in a joint programme on family farms with the Senegalese Federation of NGOs (village-based associations) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Goal 2 — Achieve universal primary education: (a) classrooms built (250 renovated classrooms); (b) 32,000 children, ages up to 22 years, enrolled in school; and 525 teachers trained:

Goal 3 — Promote gender equality and empower women: (a) free books and notebooks: 5,400 items (3,200 books and 2,200 notebooks) distributed to girls; (b) partial exemption from school fees for girls: 3,000 girls (2,000 partially exempted and the rest fully exempted); (c) training for adolescents: 4,500 adolescents have received technical training in the textile and health industries; (d) credit union established; 3,200 women members; and (e) trade between women in urban and rural associations: 25,000 agricultural and fishery products traded;

Goal 6 — Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: HIV/AIDS education programme for 4,500 boys and girls in 2008, in collaboration with OXFAM Novib; 36 STD/AIDS clubs established;

Goal 7 — Ensure environmental sustainability: (a) rainwater collection: 5,000 persons provided with access to water; (b) information on toxic waste and its effects: 15,000 persons taught.

Activities in support of global principles: (a) campaigns in 2005 and 2006 to promote peace in the Casamance, including a meeting with the leader of the Movement of Democratic Forces in the Casamance; (b) organization of "Day of the

African Child" in five regions in 2006, 2007 and 2008: 19,500 persons mobilized; and (c) organization of "World AIDS Day" in 2006, 2007 and 2008: 17,800 persons informed.

2. Association mauritanienne pour la santé de la mère et de l'enfant (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The aims and purposes of the Association are to combat sexual violence against women and children; help reduce maternal and infant mortality; combat STD/AIDS; promote and defend the rights of women and children; and combat malnutrition. To achieve these aims, the organization carries out activities aimed at providing shelter and assistance to women and child victims of sexual violence; medical and health care; legal and judicial assistance; psychological and social counselling; socio-economic rehabilitation; educational support; literacy training; and an awareness-raising programme for the prevention of sexual violence in schools. Other activities include advocacy and lobbying with authorities for better protection of victims; training of NGO staff; training of health-care personnel; training of judges and lawyers; training of police and gendarmerie; identifying victims of obstetric fistula and helping them find specialized health care; public awareness campaigns about the risks of obstetric fistula; training of focal points for STD/HIV/AIDS control; awareness-raising about STD/HIV/AIDS; STD/HIV/AIDS screening; promulgation of the family code; dissemination of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; awareness-raising about the rights of young female workers; training of paralegal assistants in urban and rural areas; campaigns to promote awareness of sexual and reproductive rights among adolescents; awareness campaigns about female genital mutilation and early marriage; elaboration and dissemination of educational information on the rights of women and children; management of nutrition centres for children in disaster areas; and distribution of dry rations.

Changes: The main changes that have occurred during the period under review are the modification of the executive board and the geographical expansion of the organization's activities.

Composition of the executive board: The general assembly met to elect a new seven-member executive board; the president, general secretary and treasurer held their posts on the new board, and four new members were elected.

Geographical expansion: The activities of the Association were initially located only in Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania. Thanks to its growing professionalism and the support of its partners, the Association has extended its activities to the interior of the country. The regions now included are as follows: Brakna, 250 km from the capital; Gorgol, a region inhabited by minority populations and located 450 km from the capital; Hodh El Gharbi, 780 km from the capital; and the rural communes of Bouhedra and Teydouma, located in the Hodh El Gharbi region and inhabited by a population mainly composed of illiterate female heads of household.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

The Association has not yet participated in the work of the Economic and Social Council, pending an invitation from that body. It is willing to take part in any event to which it is invited.

The Association's contribution to United Nations activities has mainly taken the form of participation in information seminars and workshops, awareness-raising activities and the design of national and international programmes.

As part of the effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the Association has carried out the following activities:

Goal 3 — Promote gender equality and empower women: Participation in advocacy and awareness-raising activities at subregional conferences on topics such as "Gender-based violence: harmonizing approaches to promote better adaptation to change", held in Abidjan in December 2008; participation in Mauritania's initial report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirty-eighth session, held in May 2007 in New York; participation with judges in a day of reflection on violence against women, organized by the Minister of Social Affairs, Children and the Family (MASEF) in October 2007; participation in the midterm review of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Gender Programme in collaboration with MASEF; participation by the President, in April 2008 at the United Nations Office at Geneva, in the launch of a BBC documentary on sexual violence, during which she presented information to 300 United Nations officials on sexual violence in Mauritania; in October 2007, participation with judges in a workshop on violence against women and United Nations recommendations on Mauritania's report; in September 2008, participation in the Dakar meeting on child trafficking, in preparation for the World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, with the support of UNICEF; participation in the third World Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Rio de Janeiro in November 2008, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Goal 6 — Improve maternal health: door-to-door campaign on family planning in Nouakchott (Marbatt d'El Mina, Dar Naim, Arafatt) in 2005, with UNFPA support; participation in a workshop on interest groups (family planning, with UNFPA support); participation of Mohamed El Moctar in a seminar on major population policy approaches in the context of cooperation between Mauritania and UNFPA, 2003-2008; participation in a seminar on adolescent sexuality training, held in Sweden in October and November 2008; meeting with the head of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor at UNDP headquarters; participation in the International Day Of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation in February 2007, organized by the State Secretariat on the Status of Women, which became the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and the Family in 2008, with the support of UNICEF; participation in a workshop with the Minister of Finance on the biannual review of the UNICEF programme; mission to Uganda to participate in the launch of a UNICEF-supported toll-free hotline for children in August 2007; in October and November 2007 the President of the Association took part in a training seminar on health and sexual and reproductive rights in Stockholm, organized by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU); participation in the launch of the "Invest in Development" project; participation in the festivities commemorating

International Women's Day, March 2007; in July 2005, participation in midterm review of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks; in November 2005, participation in a workshop on the midterm review of UNICEF programmes; in December 2007, participation in a meeting of the obstetrical fistula programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UNFPA; participation in a meeting on the cooperation programme between UNFPA and Mauritania, 2003-2008, at the Ministry of Economic Affairs; in April 2005, participation in the midterm review of the UNFPA programme on reproductive health, with the Ministry of Health.

3. Centre d'études diplomatiques et stratégiques (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Established in 1986, the Centre d'études diplomatiques et stratégiques (CEDS) is a centre for the training and advanced training of diplomats, civil servants, high-level officials and senior executives. Its main aim is to contribute to economic and social development by providing information and know-how in the fields of diplomacy and international relations.

CEDS provides the following types of training: (a) long-term courses in diplomacy and international relations, two in French and one in English; and (b) short-term courses on various topics related to diplomacy and development, such as the "Expert in International Investments" session, in collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce, and advanced training sessions for delegations from Africa and the Caribbean.

Public attendance each year includes more than 50 nationalities. For example, in 2008, 28 African countries and 15 Asian countries were represented. Of the nationals of these regions, approximately 40 per cent were diplomats and national elected officials and 30 per cent were high-level officials and military attachés.

The instructors are primarily international experts, such as ambassadors (including crisis management specialists), permanent representatives (to UNESCO), high-level officials (foreign affairs and defence ministers), international civil servants from the United Nations (honorary directors of United Nations information offices and centres in Geneva, Brussels and New York) and experts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

CEDS has a research programme, with two types of publications: (a) an annual publication, *Enjeux diplomatiques et stratégiques*, in which the Centre's instructors present their expert analyses of the principal international political, strategic and economic challenges; and (b) the students' research projects, the best of which are published by Harmattan in the collection "Diplomatie et stratégie"; most of these are used in their professional activities.

CEDS has established affiliates abroad in Rome, Dakar, Athens, Rabat, Antananarivo (in the National School of Administration), La Paz, Seoul and Tokyo, which are the focal points for the activities and courses carried out in Paris.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Generally speaking, the training and research activities of CEDS foster the realization of its two aims: promoting a better understanding of the United Nations system and making an effective contribution to the achievement of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. In that context, many seminars in each of the three main courses are devoted to teaching about the United Nations system (for example, the more recent English-language session in diplomacy and international relations included three half-day seminars on United Nations institutions, three seminars on peacekeeping operations, six on the rules and strategies of the Bretton Woods institutions and five on juridical rules produced by international institutions.

In addition, CEDS is organizing, in the Joint Defence College (formerly the École Supérieure de Guerre, with senior officers — half of whom are French nationals — from 72 different countries), a cycle of lectures on international organizations. For example, the cycle of 4-5 February 2009 covered four areas, three of which are directly linked to the United Nations system (the principal organs of the United Nations, the economic and financial institutions [Bretton Woods] and the cultural institutions [UNESCO]).

The first purpose of the United Nations set forth in Article 1 of the Charter, namely, to maintain international peace and security, has been a topic of high priority since 2006, because of the major peacekeeping reforms that followed the Brahimi report.

Thus, since 2006, three round tables have been devoted to peacekeeping operations (April 2006, March 2008 and February 2009) with the participation of the former Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe.

In addition, for the commemoration in France of the sixtieth anniversary of peacekeeping operations, CEDS organized a colloquium in May 2008 under the auspices of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe. The participants included the head of the centre for France, its former director, a number of French and Latin American diplomats and over 100 persons from various political and diplomatic fields. Besides general issues relating to the changes in peacekeeping operations and their adaptation to new geopolitical constraints, two specific topics were also dealt with: peacekeeping as it relates to French diplomacy, and operations in Haiti.

The above-mentioned event served as the point of departure for a partnership formed in June 2008 between CEDS and the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, under which experts from the latter help prepare CEDS students to carry out negotiations in United Nations organs and conferences, host them at the Information Centre's headquarters in Brussels for training and awareness-raising courses and participate, along with CEDS officials, in various events to disseminate knowledge about United Nations activities.

It is worth noting that *Enjeux diplomatiques et stratégiques* (2005-2009) made a contribution, not only under the aforementioned headings (for example, "Life of

the United Nations", developing the topic of peacekeeping), but also through many articles on United Nations initiatives to promote stabilization in Kosovo, Central Africa and the Middle East.

In brief, CEDS actively contributes to the dissemination of knowledge about the United Nations system and gives greater visibility to peacekeeping operations. Its courses and research projects further an international partnership aimed at reducing poverty, illiteracy and discrimination and at promoting sustainable development through the actions of those officials and leaders who complete the courses and research. CEDS is therefore a stakeholder in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Activities related to the Millennium Development Goals

CEDS directly contributes to Goal 8 (Develop a global partnership for development), because training in diplomacy and decision-making provides useful expertise in concluding agreements and contracts that are appropriate to the development process. In the same way, the Centre helps to achieve other Goals such as extreme poverty reduction, universal primary education and environmental sustainability. The acquisition of the concepts of modern political science also helps decision makers to attain Goal 3, to promote gender equality and empower women.

During the period under review, 12 long-term training sessions were set up, with the main recurrent theme being diplomacy in the service of development.

For example, the most recent English-language session in international relations and diplomacy is focused on providing diplomatic tools for two objectives: the promotion of the Global Compact and strategies for poverty reduction. It offers multidisciplinary, economic (on international financial institution strategies and multinational corporation codes of conduct), legal (defining the framework of development law and international law), political and diplomatic (defining negotiation and decision-making tools) seminars and lectures.

Three examples of short training sessions may also illustrate the Centre's investment in the MDGs: (a) the purpose of the "Expert in International Investments" session, launched in October 2008 in partnership with the International Chamber of Commerce and scheduled to be repeated annually, is to teach students how to prepare strategies to encourage foreign investment in developing countries, together with negotiation strategies, with a view to optimizing industrialization opportunities in the host country and the externalities affecting the living conditions of local communities. The same activity was carried out in March 2009 in Abidjan, in collaboration with the Institut africain de développement et de stratégies; (b) the annual advanced training session for interns from the Centre for International Diplomatic Studies in Haiti, held in July 2007 and 2008, whose main theme was the correlation between the world geopolitical context and the imperatives of poverty reduction; for example, the July 2008 session included expert input from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Commission (both economic and geopolitical expertise); and (c) the advanced training session for Senegalese students from the CEDS affiliate in Dakar, repeated annually since June 2006, which took a similar approach: the June 2008 session developed two major topics, namely, the impact of the geopolitical context on international economic partnerships with Africa and the role of international

financial institutions and States in the elaboration of poverty reduction strategy frameworks.

Likewise, 5 of the 12 round tables organized by the Centre from December 2005 to May 2009 studied the impact of international balances and institutions on the take-off of the African continent, based on the following topics: mechanism for achieving the Millennium Development Goals on the continent (April 2006); impact of international political crisis management on development processes (June 2006 and December 2009); scope of Chinese investments (December 2007); and the effect of the food crisis on poverty reduction strategies (June 2008).

Study travel is also part of the courses on geopolitical and institutional conditions for the achievement of Goals 1, 2 and 7. Several types of travel took place during the period under review: (a) primarily in the context of training sessions, travel to the United Nations in New York (March 2007), Geneva (March 2006, October 2007, December 2007, May and December 2008) and Brussels (January 2007, 2008 and 2009). For example, the theme of the December 2008 trip to the United Nations Office at Geneva was the United Nations contribution to the least developed countries, in terms of both development and humanitarian assistance; (b) study travel for CEDS officials and executives to United Nations Headquarters in New York, including the May 2007 trip, which involved participation in seminars and working groups on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; (c) field research in developing countries (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 2005; Madagascar, 2007; Morocco, 2009); for example, in Morocco, the main focus of study was the poverty reduction programmes put in place since 2003; and (d) CEDS also participates, through its affiliates in developing countries, in the achievement of the above-mentioned training objectives; for example, the Madagascar affiliate, with the help of lecturers from CEDS Paris, trains the country's high-level officials at the National Administration School in Madagascar.

The annual publication *Enjeux diplomatiques et stratégiques* regularly includes a section called "Life of the United Nations" and another entitled "Life and actions of international economic organizations" (for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009). These two sections list all the annual activities of United Nations organs in the fields of international development and trade, some of which are discussed in detail. For the 2009 edition, the first section deals with a review of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Since July 2005, a total of 45 research projects have been carried out by CEDS students, at least half of which have dealt with the following topics: governance and development strategies; development partnerships in West and Central Africa; and contribution of international economic and financial institutions to the take-off of the developing countries.

4. Fondation Surgir (Special; 2005)

I. Aim

The aim of Fondation Surgir is to combat the extreme violence to which girls and women are subjected in some countries, in particular "honour crimes" in the Middle East and central Asia, and forced marriages in Switzerland.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

The Foundation has not been able to participate in the work of the Council as much as it would have liked during this period because it has focused, in accordance with its aim, on combating violence against women and on preparing programmes abroad and awareness-raising campaigns in Switzerland concerning forced marriages. In addition, budgetary constraints and the scant number of Foundation representatives in Switzerland, with only 10 local employees in the various countries, make it very difficult to participate actively in international meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Foundation has been a member of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and its Working Group on Violence against Women and Girls since early 2008.

2005: Participation in the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva (April 2005 — violence against women);

2008: Participation in the seventh session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva (March 2008 — presentation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women); eighth session of the Council (May 2008 — universal periodic review of Pakistan); ninth session of the Council (September 2008 — expert group on infanticide in India, organized by CONGO and Fondation Surgir).

Activities related to the Millennium Development Goals

Through its activities, the Foundation has contributed to the implementation of Goal 3 in the Middle East by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Foundation is engaged in combating customary violence against women, primarily honour crimes and forced marriage.

Action for the elimination of honour killings

In the light of General Assembly resolution 59/165 on working towards the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour, the activities carried out by the Foundation to combat such violence include awareness-raising, prevention and assistance programmes in the field and search and rescue activities for cases that cannot be resolved in situ.

In the programmes it carries out abroad in association with local partners, the Foundation is responsible for funding, overseeing and monitoring the progress of projects and for the institution-building of its local partners.

Jordan

(a) **2003-2005**: With our partner, the Sisterhood is Global Institute (SIGI), we set up a three-year programme entitled "Towards a non-violent culture: combating violence against women in Jordan", aimed at informing women and girls about their rights and increasing their opportunities for action to confront violence; introduction of human rights education workshops and a telephone hotline.

(b) **2005**: A total of 310 cases of violence were monitored by the SIGI centre, 1,177 telephone calls were recorded on the hotline, 45 public and private organizations networked in setting up awareness-raising workshops on violence and human rights, 235 newly-weds attended workshops on the rights to family life and 43 women took part in workshops on the protection of human rights.

(c) **2006-2008**: With our partner SIGI, we set up a three-year programme entitled "Human rights education and counselling services for students". Each year, this programme set up human rights and women's rights workshops in three schools (different each year) for students, their parents and the teaching staff; a support and counselling structure for students was also organized. In 2006, a total of 300 pupils and 150 parents attended workshops and 43 pupils and women received assistance; in 2007, a total of 142 female students, 76 teachers and 56 parents attended workshops and the cases of 25 people were monitored; in 2008, a total of 95 students, 59 teachers, 93 members of students' families and 96 members of local communities took part in workshops.

Palestine

2006-2008: In partnership with SAWA-Palestine, the Foundation set up a three-year programme entitled "Combating violence against women and educating in human rights", aimed at informing and raising awareness among women, children and their parents about human rights and building women's individual and collective capacities to confront violence. The Foundation set up human rights workshops in schools in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and workshops for women's groups; a telephone hotline was also set up. In 2006, a total of 3,866 people took part in workshops and 124 women and children received support and personal assistance; in 2007, a total of 3,487 people took part in workshops and 150 women and children received support and personal assistance; and in 2008, a total of 3,028 people took part in workshops over a six-month period (students, volunteers, parents and teachers).

Conferences and other activities to combat honour crimes

2005: (a) National conference on honour crimes in Palestine, organized in cooperation with SAWA; (b) study on honour crimes in Yemen with the Yemeni association Sisters' Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF), funded by the Foundation; (c) conference in Modena for Soroptimist Italy; and (d) presentation on honour crimes during two days of debates and lectures in Crêt-Bérard, Geneva.

2008: Presentation of the Foundation's work on honour crimes to the working group on honour-related crimes organized by the Belgian Bureau for Gender Equality, Brussels.

Rescue programme

Among its activities in Europe, the Foundation has a rescue programme enabling survivors of honour crimes to take refuge in Europe when no other solution is possible for them. A procedure for integrating them and helping them become self-sufficient is put in place as soon as they arrive and the Foundation covers the costs until they are able to support themselves.

2005-2008: Three rescues of young girls at risk of death were carried out. Supervision of other young girls who had arrived earlier continued until they were able to support themselves.

Forced marriages

In working to combat violence against women, the Foundation is also active on the question of forced marriages in Switzerland.

2006

The Foundation's action began in 2006 with the conduct of the first study in Switzerland of the prevalence of forced marriage in the country (estimated at 17,000). This study was presented at a press conference in December 2006, attended by 35 journalists, including journalists invited from the United Nations.

2007

In the light of resolution 51/3 of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2007 the Foundation undertook to draft a plan of action for combating forced marriages in Switzerland. In parallel, the Swiss Confederation took up the problem: a motion was filed in 2006 and accepted in 2008 and a report was drafted in 2007.

2008

In the context of paragraph 6 (a) of resolution 51/3, in which the Commission on the Status of Women invites non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors to continue to advocate at the local, regional, national and international levels against forced marriage, the Foundation devoted 2008 to launching a campaign to inform and raise the awareness of the Swiss public and to support victims of forced marriage. The following actions were taken: (a) public awareness-raising: two public billboard campaigns in four cities (Geneva, Lausanne, Fribourg and Neuchâtel); distribution of leaflets within networks of concerned professionals; and (b) victim support: launch of a telephone hotline providing listening and counselling services; 50 requests for support in 2008.

The campaign also involved a major information drive in the form of numerous meetings and lectures in a variety of bodies. This made it possible, as called for in paragraph 6 (b) of resolution 51/3, to "continue to increase coordination and cooperation in addressing forced marriage", since the Foundation is participating in the work of the Federal Office for Migration to draft resolutions concerning this issue in Switzerland. The Foundation also gave a presentation on its work to the Swiss conference of specialized integration services and at the day of reflection on migrant populations and domestic violence, organized by the Vaud Equality Office, and took part in the symposium of the International Institute for the Rights of the Child, organized on the occasion of the release of the film "Mariage forcé, plus jamais!" (Forced marriage, never again!).

From the start, this campaign against forced marriage received considerable media coverage. More than 50 Swiss newspapers published one or more articles on the Foundation's work on an issue about which little is known in Switzerland. The Foundation's Director was also invited to talk on Radio Suisse Romande and World Radio Switzerland when programmes on forced marriage were broadcast.

Violence against women

2005: Three days of lectures and debates on violence against women were held in Bern, with Yakin Ertürck, Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council, and Farida Shaheed.

5. World Organization of Associations for Prenatal Education (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The World Organization of Associations for Prenatal Education (OMAEP) comprises 17 national associations for prenatal education (Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)). Its action, which is based on scientific and psychological discoveries demonstrating the importance of the prenatal period for the health and stability of the future child and adult, is aimed at promoting prenatal education worldwide to benefit the health and balance of future children and the peace of global society.

To this end, the Organization: (a) coordinates and supports the actions of its member associations, represents them in European and international institutions and encourages the formation of new associations; (b) organizes congresses and training seminars internationally; (c) takes part in congresses held by other organizations [proposes to governments and international institutions measures for protecting the pregnant mother and the child during the prenatal period]; and (d) cooperates with other international institutions dealing with issues related to motherhood, the family, preventive health and world peace.

Means used to achieve these aims

(a) Participation in world congresses: "Prenatal education: hope for the future" [June 1993, Granada, Spain]; "Prenatal education, from ancient Greece to the twenty-first century" (May 1994, Athens); "The biological and psychological foundations of prenatal education" (March 1998, Rome); "Towards a world without violence" [March-April 2001, Caracas]; "Prenatal education at the service of peace" (October 2004, Athens); and "Prenatal education, a factor for peace, peace in oneself, peace in the world" [June 2007, Lausanne, Switzerland].

(b) Training seminars for members and professionals (annual seminar held in France in August), run by renowned scientists and association leaders, to exchange experience and knowledge; national and international conferences; television and radio broadcasts; publications: films, videos, audiocassettes, CDs, DVDs, books, brochures (the book *Natural prenatal education, hope for the child, the family and society*, by M. A. Bertin, a teacher and the founding President of OMAEP, now in its second edition in French, has been translated and published in Bulgarian, Greek, Romanian and Spanish and is in the process of being published in English, German and Latvian; production of a Spanish-language DVD for schoolchildren entitled "Nine months to change the world"); Internet information: website, email; proposals and communications to international institutions; ongoing cooperation with the World Movement of Mothers, the International Society of Prenatal and Perinatal

Psychology and Medicine, the Association for Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health and Femmes Internationales Murs Brisés.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

- Initial participation as an observer, New York, March 2005: the OMAEP representative, Mr. Lambrakos, talked to the representative of Greece to the United Nations and other relevant persons about OMAEP aims and the possibilities of participating in the work of non-governmental organizations; he left documentation containing brochures on prenatal education in English, French and Greek in the room set aside for this purpose.

- Committee on the Rights of the Child: participation in the forty-second, forty-third, forty-fourth, forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions at the United Nations Office in Geneva. Three representatives attended these sessions, advocating the adoption of a provision for inclusion in the Convention on the Rights of the Child on "protection of the prenatal child through support and protection of the mother", reiterating the proposal made by OMAEP in its July 2001 letter to the United Nations and April 2002 letter to UNICEF. They talked to the representative of Switzerland, one of the 18 members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, emphasizing the importance of the prenatal period for the health and stability of children, and distributed documentation about OMAEP in English and French to all participants.

- Commission for Social Development (forty-sixth session, New York, February 2008): participation in the consideration of the priority theme "Promoting full employment and decent work for all" and subsidiary items on youth and the family. Two representatives attended the session and drew attention to the importance of prenatal education by distributing a document entitled "Prenatal education, a factor for a better world, is the basis for responsible, decent and effective work", as well as the brochures "The source of life", "Prenatal education: foundation of the individual, the family and society", "Preventing violence in the prenatal period and beyond", "The prenatal period: foundation of the human being", "Helping young people to become parents", "As from the source of its being, the body learns and assimilates as it develops", "Does the antenatal period influence our lives?" and "Experience a positive and happy pregnancy, the basic prerequisite for the prevention of violence", by M. A. Bertin.

- Sixty-first Annual DPI/NGO Conference on the theme "Reaffirming human rights for all" (September 2008, UNESCO, Paris): four representatives spoke at almost all the round tables, all the half-day workshops and all the subsidiary meetings, on the following topics: "Protecting mothers and children from the prenatal period onwards", "The impact of prenatal education on creativity, social justice and world peace", "Recognizing women's creativity as mothers", "Preparing young people for the role as parents" and "Human rights count before birth". Two documents entitled "Human rights count before birth" and "Natural prenatal education, a foundation for human rights" were distributed at the conference.

– World Family Summit + 4 (December 2008, Cairo): the OMAEP President and two other representatives attended the Summit and spoke on the topic "Natural prenatal education, foundation of a healthy, creative and peaceful family at the service of humanity". A documentation folder was distributed to the 300 participants, containing the text of the speech and the OMAEP brochures mentioned above. OMAEP received proposals from several non-governmental organizations for holding seminars in their countries.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

– Ongoing cooperation with UNICEF by the OMAEP member associations in Bolivia, Bulgaria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Romania with a view to promoting prenatal education as a foundation of the health, stability and creativity of the child.

– OMAEP World Congress on the theme "Natural prenatal education, a factor for peace" (June 2007, Lausanne, Switzerland): the President and the founding President spoke on this theme and on the topic "Helping young people to become parents".

– World Congress "L'esperienza prenatale" (May 2008, Parma, Italy) organized under OMAEP auspices by the Italian association, Parma University and international bodies: the OMAEP President made a speech.

– A Socrates-Grundtvig European project brought together five OMAEP associations (France, Greece, Latvia, Romania and Spain) in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 to work on the topic "Training of prenatal education instructors and outreach workers, preparing for parenthood".

– Four international training seminars were held in Aix-en-Provence (France), Athens, Madrid and Bucharest: the texts of the lectures given on the subject were published in five languages.

– The DVD "Prenatal education and world peace" (produced by J. Gerland, one of the OMAEP representatives to the United Nations) was distributed during working meetings to the above-mentioned non-governmental organizations affiliated with the Economic and Social Council.